

HISTORY OF A DESCENDANT OF THOMAS DUNHAM

1854 Sale Provided Liberal Credit Terms!

From Cleo Holmes, Los Angeles, CA, we have a copy of an unusual 1934 booklet, evidently distributed at a Dunham reunion. The Dunhams in question belonged to the branch of Thomas Dunham (1626-1688), who was recorded by IWD as a son of Deacon John, which fact has subsequently proven inaccurate. Thomas' antecedents are unknown. Ephraim Dunham (1788-1857) appears to be an 8th generation member: Thomas 1, Jonathan 2, Nathaniel 3, David 4, John 5, John 6, John 7.

THE HISTORY

of the

Dunham Family

By Grace L. Ewald

I shall give as well as I can, the history of the descendants of the Dunham Family, beginning with Ephraim and Eliza Clark Dunham, who were grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather and grandmother of the members of this reunion.

Of the childhood of Ephraim and Eliza little is known, except that they each had several brothers and sisters, all striving to get as much of an education as was possible in those days.

Ephraim and Eliza were married December 24, 1812, in the state of New Jersey, and soon afterward moved to Warren County, Ohio, 30 miles northeast of Cincinnati, a settlement now known as Morrow, Ohio.

While living there in the year of 1837, Ephraim purchased eighty acres of land in Noble County, Indiana, at the land office at Fort Wayne. This was under the Martin Van Buren ~~sheepskin~~ *Indian Land* Grant Act of Congress of 1820. The original sheepskin Grant for this land, signed by President Martin Van Buren, is now in the possession of one of Ephraim's grandsons, Oliver Vreeland. But as far as we know Ephraim and Eliza never lived on this land.

Ephraim and Eliza Dunham were pioneers in Ohio and were the first people in their community to have a cook stove, since most of the early settlers did their cooking in fire places.

Ephraim was a Tanner, Shoemaker and a Harnessmaker by trade, and was of Scotch descent. He was a good man but never a

very great church-goer and never belonged to any church. Yet he had firm religious principles and always read the Bible every day in family worship, which was held with the entire family and the apprentices—the employees in those days being called apprentices.

During a Cholera epidemic, Ephraim went to help whenever or wherever called, often to bury the dead, even though there was greater

danger of taking this dread disease from handling a dead body than a living one. People in those early days were buried in just a winding sheet and a rough pine box for a coffin.

~~Eliza's mother was of English descent~~ and was of very small stature, but she was very courageous as so many of our early pioneer mothers had to be. She was a very methodical little body, keeping her home in perfect order, where she could lay her hand on things day or night. She always had many herbs on hand, since she, as well as her husband, was called on many times to go to care for the sick. Eliza's uncle, Abra. Clark, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

These pioneer Dunhams, who were our grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother and grandfather, had nine children. Four died in infancy; the others were: John Robert, Mary Ann, Phoebe Williams, Jonas, and Susan Amelia.

The other four children and their mother, Eliza, who lived to be 53 years old, were buried in a Baptist Cemetery near Morrow, Ohio.

On October 21, 1854 Ephraim Dunham sold his effects and came to Iowa. The sale bill he issued read as follows:

One of these original sale bills is the proud possession of another of Ephraim's grandsons, Jonas Dunham.

LIFE & TIMES OF SOLOMON DUNHAM (1793-1865)(7)(Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Elisha 4, Elisha 5, Elijah 6) shared by Harold Leeman. PART #3.

EPHRAIM DUNHAM (from P. 1)

These associations also protect-

ed their members against claim jumpers. Solomon Dunham, being a man of strong convictions of right, of a fearless nature and unyielding will, was especially valuable to the community in organizing and assisting the early settlers in their battles for their rights against the claim jumpers during the eight years preceding the land sale. His sterling integrity thus early endeared him to the people who knew him, and all felt that in him they had an unswerving and devoted friend to whom they could go times of trouble for counsel and advice.

Solomon Dunham was one of the first county commissioners of Lane County, elected in June, 1836, receiving 155 votes. He was its first assessor, and for many years, its only one. He served on the first grand jury in the county. He surveyed off many of the claims taken at the time and later was surveyor on the Galena and Chicago Railroad, and was also the first station agent and postmaster at Wayne. He built the first store in Wayne and the first house (Lazier house) where he resided for some years after 18 subsequently returning to Oaklawn.

In politics he was a Jefferson Democrat and served as delegate

at both county and state conventions. A staunch supporter of Stephen A. Douglas, he did not believe in slavery and, fully supporting the Union, he believed that it should be preserved by peaceful methods without resorting to arms. Feelings ran high when the war broke out. He was firm in his political convictions, and a noose was put up over the postoffice as a warning to him, his son Daniel, and others. We find him quietly aiding distressed families of absent soldier. Time wore away bitterness. His firm adherence to life-long principles commanded respect, and when he died on April 13, 1865 at Oaklawn Farm at the age of 72, the whole community felt the loss of one of its most prominent, valued, and loved members.

Solomon was of medium height, somewhat portly of figure, with brown eye. He was possessed of unusual vigor and strength. When he was past sixty, he picked up and carried a barrel of flour into the house alone. He was a man of few words, kind to his children, and a good provider. In later years his wife was a helpless invalid. She died Oct. 15, 1858 at the age of 58. During the rest of his life, his daughter Emma ran his household.

Public Sale

on Saturday, October 21st

the undersigned will offer for sale at his residence near the town of Morrow, the following described Chattel Property, to-wit:

COWS - HOGS - CORN

4 or 5 acres of corn in the field; 5 fattening hogs; 2 cows; 2 wagons; 1 windmill; 3 or 4 cisterns; a lot of lumber; 3 or 4 cords of bark; 2 vats of leather, part tanned; 25 sides Sol Leather, tanned; 2 or 3 dozen Calf Skins, finished; some kip Skins; Upper Leather; Collar Leather and Sheepskins; 40 or 50 bushels of Hair; Hay in the Stack and Barn; some Straw

Household and Kitchen Furniture

2 Bureaus; 2 Cupboards; 6 Bedsteads; 3 Tables; 2 Stands; a Clock; 2 sets of Chairs; Crockery; Pickled Meat; Barrels. Also 6 Stands of Bees and various other articles.

Sale to Commence at 10 O'clock. Terms Nine months credit will be given on all sums over three dollars, by giving Note and approved security. Under \$3, cash.

Date, October 6, 1854

EPHRAIM DUNHAM



ROSA DUNHAM SIMS (1881-1952)(10)(Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8, Samuel E. 9). This ca. 1902 photo brings to mind one of the squabbles Rosa had with her younger sister, Edna, which must have occurred at a much later date, say in the 1920's, when style demanded that a woman's aspiration was to look SMART rather than pretty. Edna, who was the epitome of glamour but NOT pretty, chided Rosa that she should smarten up, style-wise, should forego the frills. Edna thought she should get her hair cut very short & get rid of any curl. "You shouldn't try to look pretty; you've got to get in STYLE!" Edna proclaimed. Rosa responded, "I can't help it if I'm the pretty type." It was perhaps the only time that she got in the last word in an altercation with Edna! In this photo, taken by an admirer, Rosa proves that she was "the pretty type."

SOLOMON DUNHAM (from Page 2)

He was a religious man & a Mason. He did not believe in card playing, but was an expert at chequers & dominoes. In the early days he was away from home, occupied with the various interests mentioned. He drove a top buggy with a fine pair of black horses. He always wore a high silk hat. His son Daniel ran the farm while he was away, & in 1849, when Daniel became 28, Solomon gave him the farm east of Wayne. After this his son Mark ran the farm, which Solomon left to him.

The children of Solomon and Lydia Dunham were:

Betsey, b. June 24, 1819, d. Oct. 25, 1880; m.

Sep. 29, 1839 to Ira Albro; they had Adrian,

✓ b. 1841; Ira took a claim of 228 acres

Daniel, b. Jan. 13, 1821, d. Nov. 26, 1910; he came

to Illinois from New York in 1835 with his parents

and drove a team of horses pulling a covered wagon

all the way; he attended school in Mt. Morris

Seminary; he bought 300 acres of land unimproved;

for a number of years, Daniel engaged in the dairy

business, and in 1870, he began dealing in

Percheron horses; on Nov. 5, 1853, he married

Olive K. Hathaway; they had four children: May

married W. J. Yoder, a civil engineer and rail-

road man; Ellen married J. H. Ross, a merchant

of Wayne; Flora married C. P. Dewey, a banker of

Toulon, Ill.;

(TO BE CONTINUED)

NEW YORK BIRTHS, supplied by
Bill Burke

Dunham Births

| | year | name | date | location | County | Cer. No. |
|-----|------|---------------|-------|--------------|------------|----------|
| 87 | 1908 | Florence E. | 1/24 | Auburn | Cayuga | 3770 |
| 88 | 1909 | Evelyn | 1/12 | Auburn | Cayuga | 1361 |
| 89 | 1912 | Harold J. | 9/ | Auburn | Cayuga | 51457 |
| 90 | 1916 | Roger | 12/15 | Auburn | Cayuga | 99227 |
| 91 | 1910 | Wava B. | 4/4 | Cato | Cayuga | 22241 |
| 92 | 1916 | Avis I. | 1/22 | Ira | Cayuga | 768 |
| 93 | 1897 | M | 10/24 | Martville | Cayuga | 46924 |
| 94 | 1892 | F | 7/7 | Victory | Cayuga | 27112 |
| 95 | 1911 | Elsie M. | 3/15 | Victory | Cayuga | 13678 |
| 96 | 1913 | Frances E. | 4/19 | Victory | Cayuga | 19798 |
| 97 | 1917 | Jane H. | 4/17 | Brocton | Chautauqua | 28585 |
| 98 | 1918 | Betty L. | 5/11 | Brocton | Chautauqua | ? |
| 99 | 1922 | Julius S. | 1/2 | Brocton | Chautauqua | 1059 |
| 100 | 1885 | Mable | 11/8 | Dunkirk | Chautauqua | 31400 |
| 101 | 1900 | Eugene G. | 12/27 | Fredonia | Chautauqua | 49505 |
| 102 | 1902 | Emmb | 7/28 | Fredonia | Chautauqua | 29096 |
| 103 | 1904 | Evangeline | 6/26 | Fredonia | Chautauqua | 54248 |
| 104 | 1894 | F | 6/29 | Jamestown | Chautauqua | 26296 |
| 105 | 1898 | F | 4/7 | Mina | Chautauqua | 13893 |
| 106 | 1906 | Della | 2/16 | Silver Creek | Chautauqua | 6981 |
| 107 | 1885 | Theodore S. | 2/18 | Westfield | Chautauqua | 4987 |
| 108 | 1889 | William B. | 8/20 | Westfield | Chautauqua | 31305 |
| 109 | 1888 | M | 3/9 | Elmira | Chemung | 8990 |
| 110 | 1890 | F | 11/29 | Elmira | Chemung | 43593 |
| 111 | 1897 | Roger | 12/18 | Elmira | Chemung | 54795 |
| 112 | 1902 | F | 7/9 | Elmira | Chemung | 26417 |
| 113 | 1903 | Roger | 5/10 | Elmira | Chemung | 17380 |
| 114 | 1904 | M | 1/4 | Elmira | Chemung | 394 |
| 115 | 1905 | Estella | 10/24 | Elmira | Chemung | 45940 |
| 116 | 1905 | Lena R. | 10/24 | Elmira | Chemung | 46939 |
| 117 | 1908 | Bernard N. | 9/24 | Elmira | Chemung | 43539 |
| 118 | 1909 | Goldy M. | 8/16 | Elmira | Chemung | 36892 |
| 119 | 1917 | Beatrice M. | 5/2 | Elmira | Chemung | 37598? |
| 120 | 1920 | Alvin A. (SB) | 12/4 | Elmira | Chemung | 9886? |
| 121 | 1920 | Charles L. | 3/2 | Elmira | Chemung | 19052 |
| 122 | 1922 | Elizabeth J. | 1/17 | Elmira | Chemung | 1140 |
| 123 | 1892 | M | 5/28 | Horseheads | Chemung | 21451 |
| 124 | 1894 | M | 6/23 | Horseheads | Chemung | 25273 |
| 125 | 1898 | Mable E. | 7/29 | Horseheads | Chemung | 30148 |
| 126 | 1900 | F | 11/9 | Horseheads | Chemung | 43764 |
| 127 | 1902 | David D. | 11/28 | Horseheads | Chemung | 46061 |
| 128 | 1903 | Emma | 10/14 | Horseheads | Chemung | 40495 |
| 129 | 1905 | Raymond | 2/21 | Horseheads | Chemung | 7601 |

Dunham Births

| | year | name | date | location | County | Cer. No. |
|-----|------|--------------|-------|------------------|----------|----------|
| 130 | 1908 | Helen M. | 4/4 | Bainbridge | Chenango | 15207 |
| 131 | 1908 | Mary E. | 9/27 | Bainbridge | Chenango | 49074 |
| 132 | 1910 | Elizabeth G. | 1/11 | Bainbridge | Chenango | 1820 |
| 133 | 1884 | Nettie M. | 3/24 | Galena | Chenango | 6970 |
| 134 | 1889 | F | 7/1 | Smyrna | Chenango | 24306 |
| 135 | 1891 | M | 4/15 | Smyrna | Chenango | 15037 |
| 136 | 1892 | M | 12/23 | Smyrna | Chenango | 51062 |
| 137 | 1901 | Benjamin J. | 9/7 | Chatham | Columbia | D137137 |
| 138 | 1902 | Frank F. | 7/13 | Chatham | Columbia | 26959 |
| 139 | 1904 | Mae | 4/2 | Chatham | Columbia | 12683 |
| 140 | 1908 | John | 11/3 | Chatham | Columbia | 57209 |
| 141 | 1909 | Doris E. | 1/26 | Chatham | Columbia | 7805 |
| 142 | 1914 | Cornelia F. | 6/26 | Chatham | Columbia | 49639 |
| 143 | 1887 | Mabel | 1/23 | New Labanon | Columbia | 2663 |
| 144 | 1888 | Alice M. | 4/28 | New Labanon | Columbia | 15166-2 |
| 145 | 1889 | Archy G. | 9/18 | New Labanon | Columbia | 35214 |
| 146 | 1908 | Donald W. | 12/2 | Stuyvesant Falls | Columbia | 59687 |
| 147 | 1911 | Evelyn A. | 12/15 | Stuyvesant Falls | Columbia | 69572 |
| 148 | 1885 | Delia J. | 11/15 | Cortland | Cortland | 32016 |
| 149 | 1904 | Rosylin D. | 10/14 | Cortland | Cortland | 41894 |
| 150 | 1898 | Frank W. | 5/2 | Grand Gorge | Delaware | 17332 |
| 151 | 1889 | M | 12/6 | Meredith | Delaware | 45631 |
| 152 | 1896 | M | 11/4 | Meredith | Delaware | 48674 |
| 153 | 1905 | M | 4/18 | Meredith | Delaware | 16584 |
| 154 | 1884 | F | 8/18 | Middletown | Delaware | 19416 |
| 155 | 1890 | | 2/13 | Middletown | Delaware | 5769 |
| 156 | 1892 | F | 9/20 | Middletown | Delaware | 39381 |
| 157 | 1893 | Julia | 2/13 | Middletown | Delaware | 6352 |
| 158 | 1897 | Cecil L. | 8/20 | Middletown | Delaware | 36276 |
| 159 | 1901 | Dehlia K. | 7/2 | Middletown | Delaware | 24696 |
| 160 | 1884 | F | 10/13 | Sidney | Delaware | 24441 |
| 161 | 1886 | M | 4/13 | Sidney | Delaware | 11665 |
| 162 | 1889 | M | 1/14 | Sidney | Delaware | 1804 |
| 163 | 1894 | M | 6/2 | Sidney | Delaware | 22052 |
| 164 | 1902 | M. | 10/13 | Sidney | Delaware | 40320 |
| 165 | 1916 | Francis H. | 2/14 | Buffalo | Erie | 16839 |
| 166 | 1916 | Vera R. | 2/20 | Buffalo | Erie | 11007 |
| 167 | 1919 | Keith L. | 1/28 | Buffalo | Erie | 2494 |
| 168 | 1921 | Lois | 11/27 | Buffalo | Erie | 94609 |
| 169 | 1911 | Harry H. | 2/2 | Forest Glen | Erie | 17102 |
| 170 | 1900 | Robert L. | 3/18 | Hamburg | Erie | 10399 |
| 171 | 1908 | M. | 9/22 | Walden | Erie | 43342 |
| 172 | 1888 | M | 12/15 | Port Henry | Essex | 44637 |